

**ELIGIBLE & EXEMPT ITEMS FOR COST ESTIMATE****GENERAL**

The bridge construction unit costs are submitted yearly to FHWA. This cost data is used in the apportionment process as described in Title 23, U.S.C. Section 144(e). The unit cost report is for new and replaced highway bridges constructed with Federal funds on Federal-aid highways (highway bridges on the NHS and other Federal-aid highways) and on non Federal-aid highways (highway bridges on local roads and rural minor collectors; off-system highway bridges). Unit costs shall be based on bridge costs only.

To make this data as accurate as possible and uniform nationwide, the following guidelines for eligible costs should be followed when coding the Bridge Cost Estimate database.

**EXEMPT ITEMS (Items not to be included in the Unit Cost Calculations)**

Mobilization  
Demolition of existing bridge  
Stream channel work  
Riprap  
Slope paving  
Earthwork (exclusive of structural excavation and structural backfill)  
Clearing and grubbing  
Retaining walls not attached to the abutment  
Guardrail transitions to bridges  
Maintenance and protection of traffic  
Detour costs  
Signing and marking  
Lighting  
Electrical conduit  
Inlet frames and grates  
Field office  
Construction engineering items  
Training  
Right-of-way  
Utility Relocation  
Contingencies  
Painting steel or concrete members for aesthetic purposes  
Textured concrete surface

**ELIGIBLE ITEMS (Items to be included in the Unit Cost Calculations)**

As a general rule, if the item is necessary to construct the bridge, it is eligible. The following items have been ruled eligible by FHWA HQ.

Temporary shoring for bridge construction (formwork, falsework, and retention of roadway fill)  
Work bridges or platforms  
Deck treatments or wearing surface overlays  
Deicing systems used for deicing decks for traffic safety  
Approach slabs (when paid for as a bridge item, e.g. on integral abutment bridges)  
Painting steel members to prevent corrosion

**Commentary**

The above information is based on FHWA Memorandum for Bridge Construction Unit Costs Attachment C and on information from Greg Kolle, FHWA Nebraska Division Bridge Engineer.

**Revisions:**

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Added new article.